in Travancore and Cochin, T. Austin Esquire, I. C. S., the Assistant Resident, K. Raman Menon Esquire, B. A., B. L., B. C. L., Bar-at-Law, the Chief Justice, and other Heads of Departments and Offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

"*Gentlemen,*

PRELIMINARY.

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, I have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Thirteenth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1091 M. E., in English and Malayalam, which will be placed in your hands, will give you detailed information regarding the administration of the State during the year.

2. The deadly War in Europe continues with unabated force. We admire, and heartily sympathise with, the inflexible determination of the Allies, notwithstanding the illusory peace proposals of the Enemy, to carry on the War to a successful termination and thus rid the world permanently of the menace of savage Prussian militarism.

3. The happy event in the Royal Family in Kanni 1092—the birth of a daughter to Her Highness the Junior Rani—was hailed with universal rejoicings. Let us pray that the Almighty may preserve the Princess in health and strength and ensure continuity of succession in the Ruling House.

4. In April 1916 His Excellency the Governor of Madras visited the planting districts of North Travancore. In the same month His Highness the Maha Raja proceeded to Coonoor on a short tour.

PERSONNEL.

5. Since the last Assembly, there have been very few changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Major Oakes, Commandant of the Nayar Brigade, proceeded on active service, on relief by Lt. Colonel Faunce, who once before held command of the Brigade.

FINANCE.

6. The revenue and receipts of the State rose from Rs. 1,49,14,987 in 1090 to Rs. 1,52,79,386 in 1091, while the ordinary expenditure fell from Rs. 1,62,21,520 to Rs. 1,45,75,660, leaving a surplus of Rs. 7,03,726. Setting off this surplus against the capital expenditure on the Extension of the Railway from Quilon to Trivandrum, amounting to Rs. 10,48,506, there was a net deficit of Rs. 3,44,780, thus reducing the balance at the disposal of the Government from Rs. 49,02,047, at the beginning of the year, to Rs. 45,57,267 at its close.

7. **Revenue.**—The actual revenue and receipts of the year exceeded the estimate by Rs. 3,38,886. The increase was mainly under the heads of 'Salt', 'Customs' and 'Stamps', while there was an appreciable decline under 'Excise'. The revenue from 'Stamps', amounting to Rs. 19,44,251, was the highest on record. This, as well as the increase in the receipts from 'Registration', indicate that, notwithstanding the depressing effects of the War, the business activities of the people give promise of recuperation. The prospects of trade, however, are still far from encouraging, the increase in the revenue from 'Customs' being mainly due to the imposition of a new export duty on tea. The rise under 'Salt' is the result of an increase in the local outturn and consumption, as also in the salt duty. Substantial increase was anticipated under 'Forest', but the result was a decrease, owing to the sluggish condition of the timber market.

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